

New Wine in New Wineskins

The Changing Harvest Force and New Tools for Global Evangelization

by Frank Kaleb Jansen

John Robb and I, together with several others, have been working on the Unreached Peoples Track for the AD 2000 Movement. I will give a short presentation on what is going to happen inside the Unreached Peoples Track at the consultation in Seoul, Korea next year. I'll also give a short analysis on the new harvest force situation in the United States, and the tools available for us to use, now and in the future, in the global mission movement.

At the outset I want to start by asking, "What is the goal of our task? Is it to see every people group reached? Is it to save a lot of people?" The goal, as I read it in the Bible, is that one day the knowledge of the glory of the Lord fill the earth as the water covers the sea. Mark and Matthew in the Great Commission passages say that we need to preach the Gospel to every creature, in every habitat—everywhere where people live. One factor to see that happen is the people-group thinking. Concentrating on people groups is a good strategy, and I have dedicated my life to that strategy. Through people-group thinking, we can foresee that the knowledge of the glory of the Lord will fill the earth. I think it's possible to do that through people-group thinking and strategy. Others would say and put emphasis that it has to be done through kinship structures and relationships. Others might say that it has to be done through radio." Cameron Townsend thought it could be done through translating the Word of God into 586 languages—which was his knowledge of how many languages there were in the world at that time. Of course today we have discovered that there are 6,000 plus languages.

The Goals of AD 2000

When I started to work with the Adopt-A-People Clearinghouse I had fairly clear picture of what needed to be done. It was like the time of seeing a human body with my friends when I was in primary school. That was rather simple. But then the teachers revealed that there were organs and a heart and so on inside the human body, and that it had cells. A little later, I learned that these cells had molecules. Then I learned about atoms, and that inside the atom were electrons and neutrons each with their nucleus. It's a great thing. Later I learned that inside these atoms were three pairs of leptons, and three pairs of quarks. I was so excited this past Summer when it was discovered that the sixth quark, which was 200 times heavier than the other quarks, indicates that we have a whole new universe inside that big sixth quark. Isn't that great! Didn't you jump for joy, too? It's true that we discover more and more of God's creation and how great and infinite God truly is. When we say, "Oh, finally we are finished. We now have defined all these atoms," only to discover that we have all these leptons and quarks—and inside that a whole new universe.

When can we ever say that we have finished the task? When Peter and Paul were going into the world and reaching the then known world, they didn't know about America; but still, they were doing their job going into all the world. I trust God that what He has revealed to us is complete, if we are faithful in obedience to what He has revealed to us.

The goals of the AD 2000 Unreached Peoples Track are eight-fold:

1. The goal is to inspire, to encourage and to motivate the people coming to the Consultation. About 4,500 will attend, mostly from the Third World (half of them will be charismatics). It will be a different meeting from the first Lausanne meeting, and from the second meeting. It will give us a good picture of what the mission movement and the church growth movement in the world really is like.

2. We want people to go away feeling a part of a larger network, providing fellowship and support.

3. We want people to learn—to promote learning and stimulus through cross-fertilization of ideas—sharing of models, reports, etc.

4. We want people to gain a clear knowledge of what to do and follow-through upon return to their countries.

5. People should know how to build networks for the incorporation of their ministries and prayer—including specific understanding on building and maintaining partnerships.

6. They must understand the importance of informed intercession/spiritual warfare and how to mobilize for intercession.

7. People should be acquainted with the various resources and tools available within the AD 2000 Movement.

8. We want people to have a definite sense of ownership in both regional and national planning in regard to the unreached peoples of the world.

This is not a conference for the American and Westerner Christians only. The focus of the AD 2000 Movement is very much on the vast Two-Thirds World, and to get ownership, not the paternalistic view from the well-informed

stewards of knowledge, but usher in a whole partnership movement in the global Church. I'm so happy to see that most of the attendants who have already registered are concerned about the Unreached Peoples Track, which by far is the biggest track of all at the consultation. This tells me that the Third World Church may be more concerned about the unreached peoples than the American, the Norwegian, or the European Christian movement.

There's going to be a plenary meeting on May 18, where Patrick Johnstone, John Robb, Phil Butler and I, together with Third-World leaders, are going to give a short 50-minute presentation. On May 19 this breaks down into several workshops meeting all day. There will be workshops on building partnerships led by Phil Butler; another on the Adopt-A-People concept, which I'm covering; and another led by William Kumuyi from Nigeria and Ross Campbell on reaching of the various people groups. In later sessions we will deal with the researchers, the mobilizers, and the purpose for world evangelization.

In the evening there will be open sharing about what God is doing to reach unreached peoples—visions, burdens, needs, challenges. At a later day, there will be reports and discussions from every region. Again, we'll end up talking about how to build partnerships, because the networks and the partnerships are probably the key factor to seeing things get done, all of us working together, each doing their part. Obviously, no agency, no country can do this task by themselves.

It's a wonderful thing God has provided that we will and have to work together. It's not somebody directing things from Colorado Springs or Pasadena, dictating to the rest of the world what to do. True partnership is truly working together. That is the trademark for this consultation—that partnerships and networks have to be established. One thing that has been very

clear to me is that to build partnerships we need to have tools to do the work and then rules and guidelines to work it out.

The New Wine

But what about the new wine and is it necessary to put it into new wineskins? If you asked Thomas Wang, "What do you think about the response 'Is it possible?'" Maybe we have some reservations here, and say "If God intervenes it will be possible." Wang might get an answer that would indicate we're not quite convinced that we believed it is possible. When we look upon the facts and when we analyze the situation we may not be so sure anymore. David Barrett said, "Well, those least evangelized peoples (that whole list with which we're so familiar) who were unreached in 1974, they were unreached in 1980, they were still unreached in 1989 and in '90, and remain so in '94. Nothing has really happened."

Of course, that's not exactly how Barrett said it, but that's how it has come across. When I look upon the unreached peoples, and the numbers we have before us (it's anywhere from 3,500 to 11,000). I ask how many of these are being targeted with any intent to reach them from the total 900 agencies of the North American missionary movement? We find that it is a mere 327, or about 10% of the people groups, (taking the lowest number) that are being targeted by North American mission agencies. If this continues, it means that the Great Commission will never be completed, if we in America have to do the major share, because we are only targeting 10% of the list. Why is it that the American missionary movement, with more money than any other country, is only targeting 327 peoples?

I am not criticizing the American missionary movement, because we are and have done tremendous work for many years all around the world. But the stark reality is that we have been tied

down to our existing programs to the extent that there are no resources available to go and do what we all think it is right to do—to reach the unreached peoples of the world. We say that we are concerned about completing the Great Commission, not only conserving the plans we have for our own organizations, big or little. But the reality is that we are only targeting a small percentage of the unreached peoples of the world. Although there is talk and plans about reaching an additional 650 people groups (but no real physical work, nor any real preparation is being done at this point in time), even this would mean that two thirds of the unreached peoples are not being targeted, at least not by us.

For this reason I say, we certainly need new wine and that it will be difficult, if not unwise, to pour it into old wineskins. The old skins will crack. But where is the new wine in resources and workers? One new resource are the tentmakers. This new harvest force must be more involved and be integrated with the rest of the team. In our last Adopt-A-People consultation, I invited Gary Taylor, the director of the U.S. Association of Tentmakers to be a part of this. Gladly enough, they are a part, although they run a separate conference parallel to this one. But they are here, and they are being integrated, and there is a mutual understanding of the importance of tentmakers as a new and viable harvest force.

Another group with great potential that has excited me greatly in the last days are the prayer intercessors. They have seen that they are a part of the missionary harvest force. Prayer is an essential part of the Great Commission. After all, when Jesus said to His disciples, "Look at the harvest fields; they are white already for harvest," the first thing He said was, "Pray for laborers." So they have embraced this, and right now are building a whole network of interdenominational prayer ministries. A crucial aspect of the AD 2000 Movement is the United Prayer Track,

along with the work of the Adopt-A-People Clearinghouse. It looks like we will have 25,000 prayer cells fairly soon praying for unreached peoples. That, to me, is a new and wonderful harvest force. It is new wine!

We might ask: How do we embrace

Church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.” The prayer movement believes that since it’s not made known, and since Paul commissioned the Church to make known things that are not known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly

Tools for the Harvest

I also briefly want to deal with the new tools that are available to facilitate our task of working together in global evangelization. The Adopt-A-People Clearinghouse has developed three tools that are now ready to be

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Global Church Growth Magazine
Spring 1994, page 7

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them? Because that prayer movement is a bit different from any of our traditional agencies as such. Yes, in the past we have prayed too; but it has not been our primary focus as agencies. We had so many programs we wanted to do. But here comes a prayer movement that says, “Well, our, primary focus is to pray. We want to tear down spiritual strongholds, the principalities and powers of evil.” How do we adjust to this new emphasis? Some of us might say: “Well, we don’t want to have anything to do with this prayer movement, because they are ‘tearing down strongholds’ and they might really be into magic.” Yet in Ephesians 3:10 the apostle Paul reminds us that God’s “intent was that now, through the

realm, they will do just that. As a strategy they may travel to Nepal; or go to different places and proclaim Christ to the principalities and powers there. Some say that they shouldn’t do that, that it stirs up our traditional missionary movement, etc. But they’re doing it anyhow. They feel they have a biblical mandate that the Lord wants them to fulfill.

As I see it, the new wine is an outpouring of the Spirit, of prayer and intercession in the missionary movement—and I think we all should welcome it. We need to remember that when the spring floods come, certainly there will be things drifting along with the flood that we have to sort and throw out. May we have God’s wisdom to do that.

released. The first is a book, which came out in ’93, with the title *A Church for Every People*, and then the two volumes that followed entitled, *The Peoples of the World*. They’re published together with the AD 2000 Movement, MARC, Southern Baptists, SIL, and the People Information Network.

These are our working documents, based on surveys and research. If we are to have a Church for every people, we need to define who “every people” is and where they are located. These documents have been circulated and revised four times, with responses having come from 182 countries. We identify the peoples as ethnolinguistic peoples. We have narrowed in and said, that we have to define

them as ethnolinguistic peoples, because we can't make a list of people we don't know whether or not they exist. So they are language/cultural groupings that the Lausanne Movement was and still is concerned about. From that survey—which includes all the peoples on earth, all the dialects, with some 19,000 entries—we will finalize and print a book that we will publish for the World Consultation in Korea, (GCOWE'95) which will have the title: *The Status Of Christianity As To Ethnolinguistic Peoples*. It will include the total current picture of all the peoples on earth, reached and unreached; who they are and where they live.

The People Profiles

At the other end of this process is the "Lego Block" that everything is built on—the People Profiles. When we asked the missionary movement around the world, "What do you need the most?" the resounding answer was that they needed People Profiles. It was the number one thing overshadowing every other need. We need information on the various people groups. So, for three and a half years, with the help of Mark Bauers, we have developed the People Profiles. Currently we have 1800 profiles completed and another 700 to 1,000 research papers finished. The purpose for this was to create a grid to analyze and research every people group, and then base our strategy on that. By asking the same questions over

time for every people group, you can get comparative statistics between people groups, allowing us to see and make strategies being used in different people groups. As we ask the same questions for

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Korean Center
for
World Missions

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THE KOREAN CENTER FOR WORLD MISSIONS

each people group we begin to see trends, and trends are more important than single snapshots. Comparative statistics are important since we want to see how things are moving along, why they move greatly in one place and why they may be a total disaster in another. So this tool makes it possible to create comparative statistics alongside the people profiles as well as allows us to see certain trends for every people group.

Integrated Data Base

Another tool we have developed is the Integrated Data Base, in which we connect data together that deals with a particular people group. There's room and need to connect everything we want to connect with each people group.

For instance, in Afghanistan we can pick up the Afsharis, and get all the information in this global data base listed there. It will indicate which agencies are working among them; which people profiles are on this people and which churches have contacted them and what are the contact persons, telephone numbers, ZIP codes, etc. I will tell us which regional clearing-house is handling this people; what resources are available and a bibliography; and what networks are functioning or planned among that people group. We call it the Integrated Data Base because it tells us every vital piece of information we need on each people group.

In conclusion I want to mention Matthew 24:14, which has been the people-group verse of the Bible. Here we see that Jesus not only mentioned the nations or peoples (*ethne*), but he also said to go, "Into the whole world," or "*Holete oikemena*,"—everywhere where people live. (*Oikos* is the root word for *oikemena*; and *oikos* is every-

where there is a house.) How shall we see to it that the knowledge of the glory of the Lord fills all the earth, wherever there is a house? In order to fulfill our mandate, we have to track it, get the information and then publish it in order to make it available to the entire global mission task force. We desperately need this information—these harvest tools—in order to plant the Church among every people and provide access of the Gospel to every person. May it happen by the year 2000!

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